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For Immediate Release

Volunteers needed in Whitley County to assist children placed in foster care Citizen Foster Care Review Board needs volunteers to help Kentucky's children

FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 8, 2005 — The Whitley County Citizen Foster Care Review Board (CFCRB) is seeking volunteers to make a difference in the lives of local children. Volunteers are needed to review cases of children placed in foster care because of dependency, abuse and neglect.

"Volunteering your time on a review board is a very direct way to help the children of our community," said Deb Yates, CFCRB field coordinator.

The Kentucky General Assembly created the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards in 1982 as a way to decrease the time children spend in foster care. CFCRB volunteers review Cabinet for Health and Family Services files to help ensure that foster children receive the necessary services while in out-of-home care and are placed in permanent homes as quickly as possible. Nearly 750 volunteers serve as members of the 141 local review boards across the state. In the last year alone, the boards reviewed the case files of 8,333 children who were removed from their homes and placed into foster care.

All volunteers must complete a six-hour initial training session, and consent to a criminal record and central registry check. A recommendation is then made to the chief judge of District Court or Family Court for appointment.

The Whitley County CFCRB meets every month at the Department for Community Based Services in Corbin. For more information, contact: **Deb Yates, Field Coordinator: Whitley County Foster Care Review Board, 800-207-2178 or 502-545-8531**

The Dependent Children's Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in Frankfort oversees the CFCRB program. The AOC is the administrative arm of the Kentucky Court of Justice and supports the activities of more than 3,400 court system employees, including elected justices, judges and circuit court clerks. The AOC also executes the Judicial Branch budget.

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